In Act I of the Misanthrope, Alceste, a French aristocrat, and his friend Philinte are introduced. An argument arises between the two because Philinte disagrees with Alcests brutal and total honesty towards others and finds it rude and insulting. Instead Philintine would rather see Alceste be more understanding of people’s flaws rather than criticizing them. Alceste of course disagrees with what his friend is saying, especially when the topic of the girl he is “courting” is brought up. Philinitine believes that Alceste ignores the faults of Celimene, but Alceste comes right back by saying he does point out her flaws upon noticing them. The play then enters the next scene including Alceste and Oronte who is also a courter of Celimene. Oronte suggests that he and Alceste should be friends, but Alceste thinks that the two of them should get to know eachother better first before building a friendship. In order to take those steps, Oronte asks that Aleste crique his poem. With honesty as his best policy, Alceste holds nothing back by saying his poem is awful and that he should stick to what he is best at. Philinite however chimes and praises the poetry expressing how much he liked it, Alceste frowns upon his response because he know Philiantes opinion was not honest. Next the play enters into Act II where the two love birds, Alceste and Cilimene, are seen talking together for the first time in the play. Alceste voices to Cilimene all of his issues he has with her actions. He belives that it is wrong of her to be entertaining her multiple suitors and that she should be more descrite, especially with Clitandre. Celimene assures Alceste that there is nothing going on with Clitandre and that there is only one suitor that has her love, that person being Alceste himself. Alceste is unsure that what she is saying is true which angers Celimine causing her to go back on her word. The scene then ends with an officer coming to see Alceste. The officer announces that the Marshals of France would like to see Alceste regarding his comments on Orontes poem.   
 When I first began reading the Misanthrope I was a little confused with what was going on. In order to understand what was really happening I had to go back and re-read. As I continued to read the play I understood the play more because I got use to the style in which it was written. I really admire Alceste’s character because of how honest he was. It seems like every character in the book just says things to make people feel better rather than coming right out and telling the truth to their face. To my understanding the community which these characters are in is full of gossip and talking behind each other’s backs. An example of this would be when a group of them gather at Celimene’s and engage in conversations about the people who are not there . They also enlighten Celimene with things that she wants to hear rather than the truths which Alceste provides for her. Alceste is the right man for Celimene because he is the only one that can give her the truth no matter how it may hurt. As for Oronte and Alceste, I find it highly ironic that Oronte wants to become friends with Alceste. There’s irony in this relationship because both of them are in love with Celimene and don’t know it. I think that once they discover that they both like the same girl there will be no more “wanting a friendship.”  
 One inherent characteristic expressed in the play thus far is the human ideal of seeking perfection. The characters in the Misanthrope all seem to want perfection. They are people who see no faults in themselves, but see all faults in others. They do whatever they can to be ranked in high status and to be “popular.” In order to do this they associate themselves with people like Celimene who they all look up to. However, Alceste is the only one who does not seek perfection, but seeks the quality of being honest and trustworthy. He finds happiness in being blunt and coming out and saying the truth no matter what effect it has on him or someone else. In contrast, all the other seek happiness in faking their honesty and telling lies in order for people to like them for not who they really are, but who they make themselves to be.